

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 093116

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY IO:WBBUFFUM:HS
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O P 062338Z MAY 74 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
USINT DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T STATE 093116

EXDIS, TOSEC 316

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS:EAID,SREF, UNRWA, XF
SUBJECT: SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA

REF: BEIRUT 5141, JERUSALEM 633 (SECTO 123); STATE 092114
(TOSEC 219)

FOR SISCO AND ATHERTON FROM BUFFUM

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FROM STATE REFTEL WE HAVE MADE AN
EFFORT TO GET RENNIE TO DEFER HIS DECISION TO ANNOUNCE CUTS
IN UNRWA BY MAY 8.

2. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, HE WILL BE RELUCTANT TO DEFER VERY
LONG WITHOUT CLEARER INDICATION THAN HE NOW HAS THAT

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SUFFICIENT ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO

COVER THE LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS WHICH HE MUST SHORTLY MAKE, E.G., LETTING OF CONTRACTS FOR TEACHERS FOR NEXT YEAR.

3. WE HAVE REASSESSED POSSIBILITY OF GETTING CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTY IN RAISING THIS SUBJECT WITH THE ISRAELIS NOW. THERE ARE TWO SUCH ROUTES:

(A) TAKE MONIES FOR UNRWA FROM 100 MILLION DOLLAR SPECIAL CONTINGENCY FUND IN FY-75 AID LEGISLATION. HOWEVER, WE OF COURSE DO NOT KNOW WHAT, IF ANY, OTHER

COMMITMENTS THE SECRETARY MAY HAVE IN MIND FOR THIS FUND, AND IN ANY EVENT WE WOULD NOT EXPECT LEGISLATION TO BE ADOPTED AUTHORIZING SUCH EXPENDITURE UNTIL LATE THIS YEAR AT BEST.

(B) WE COULD SEEK SPECIAL SEPARATE LEGISLATION, BUT AGAIN THE PROBLEM OF TIMING IS DIFFICULT SINCE WE DOUBT SUCH LAW COULD BE ENACTED BEFORE LATE THIS YEAR.

4. UNLESS THERE WOULD BE GOOD CHANCE OF SUCCESSFULLY PURSUING EFFORTS TO GET MONIES FROM 2.2 BILLION APPROPRIATION FOR ISRAELIS SHORTLY AFTER YOUR RETURN HERE, ONLY REMAINING REALISTIC ALTERNATIVE WE SEE IN DISCOURAGING RENNIE FROM MAKING PRECIPITOUS CUTS WOULD BE IF SUBSTANTIAL ARAB CONTRIBUTION IS ANNOUNCED SOON. THIS ADDS ADDITIONAL URGENCY TO EXCELLENT EFFORTS ALREADY BEING MADE BY AMBASSADOR AKINS. (WE HAVE REPEATED JIDDA'S 2391 TO YOU REPORTING HIS LATEST DISCUSSION.) IF KING HAS NOT ACTED AFFIRMATIVELY BY TIME OF YOUR ARRIVAL IN JIDDA, VERY MUCH HOPE YOU MAY FIND IT POSSIBLE TO GET SUBSTANTIAL COMMITMENT FROM SAUDIS TO EASE THIS DELICATE SITUATION. RUSH

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